



MEMO

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: February 25, 2020
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council, the staff, and the community:

Council Business & Meetings

- *Public Hearings* – There will be two public hearings prior to the March 10th Town Council meeting. The first is at 6:45 PM on an Ordinance reducing the number of parking spaces required in a Food Truck Park Area, and then at 7:00 PM on the Ordinance amending the schedule of permitted main uses for experiential recreation and restaurant facilities.
- *Budget Presentation* – Also on March 10, I will be presenting the proposed 2020-2021 town budget and capital improvement plan for 2021-2032. We will schedule two public hearings to solicit input from residents on the budget; those dates are tentatively set for March 31 at 2:00 PM and April 6 at 6:00 PM.
- *Standing Committees* - the next few standing committee meetings are scheduled as follows:
 - Public Works & Facilities Committee - 8:00 AM on February 27 in Rm 312
 - Community Planning & Economic Development Committee - 6:00 PM on March 3
 - Public Safety Committee - 6:30 PM on March 4 in Rm 312

Staff Reports

- *Safety & Security for our Faith Community* - On February 20, the Town hosted a roundtable discussion with our faith-based community leaders to discuss safety and security issues. Eighteen houses of worship attended along with the Mayor, public safety personnel, and me. We discussed a wide range of issues and best practices. One of our next steps will be to assist the faith community in forming a workgroup to focus on how best to share information, collaborate on opportunities, and prepare and respond to potential emergency situations.

- *Coronavirus Update* - There are over 79,700 cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) worldwide. The vast majority of cases are located within China; however, there has been a demonstrated increase in several other countries including Italy, South Korea, Iran, Japan, among others. Local Health Departments continue to monitor residents who have returned from China for 14 days from their departure date. Connecticut has no cases and no persons under investigation. Nationally, there are 53 cases either directly linked to travel to Wuhan or Hubei province, or were on the Diamond Princess cruise ship. The West Hartford Bloomfield Health District continues to encourage residents to stay home if they are sick, wash their hands and get a flu shot.
- *North Main Street Bridge Rehabilitation* - The Town has erected a temporary traffic signal to alert drivers to the North Main Street Bridge Rehabilitation project. The signal will remain in a flashing mode until the contractor begins actual work during the week of March 2nd (weather permitting). During that week, the first construction stage will be established. This includes the reduction of four lanes to two travel lanes with the placement of concrete barriers. The barriers are needed to protect the workers while they excavate the center of North Main Street. Excavation is expected to begin during the week of March 9th.
- *DPW & Finance welcomes two new employees* – The Town of West Hartford welcomes Todd Matt as the new Operations Manager for the Department of Public Works. He will begin Monday, March 2. Also, the Financial Services Department welcomes Pattie Lewis as the new Budget & Grants Manager. She begins Monday, March 2. Congratulations to both Todd and Pattie, and I wish them a successful tenure in West Hartford.
- *Diabetes Self-Management workshops* - The West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District will offer two, six-week Diabetes Self-Management workshops for individuals who are newly diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes or for those needing a refresher better managing their Diabetes. The workshops are free. Classes begin on March 31; daytime classes will run from 1:00-3:00 PM and the evening classes from 6:00-8:00 PM. Re-registration is required; please register by calling the Health District at 860-561-7900, ext. 0.
- *West Hartford Library celebrates Women's History month* – West Hartford Library celebrates Women's History month with a presentation called "Suffragettes in Corsets" on March 4, 6:30-8:00 PM, at the main library. The presentation is hands-on and participatory. Laugh, grimace, and honor our foremothers' journeys. The event is free; registration is required.

Announcements

- *Vote for Us!* Cast your vote for *Hartford Magazine's* Best of Hartford Readers' Poll for some of the best services provided by the Town of West Hartford. We've been consistent winners over the years, and we hope to keep that winning streak going! Voting closes February 29, 2020. Please vote for:
 - West Hartford Libraries (Category: Professional Services, sub-category: Library)
 - Rockledge Golf Club (Category: Golf Course - Public)
 - Celebrate West Hartford (Categories: Festival *AND* Local Annual Event)
 - Westmoor Park (Category: Summer Camp)

Events

- *West Hartford Pride Cocktail Reception and Kickoff* - In preparation of a first-ever West Hartford Pride Festival on Saturday, June 27th in Blue Back Square, organizers are inviting the public to their West Hartford Pride Cocktail Reception and Kickoff on Thursday, March 5, 6:00-8:00PM at the Delamar Hotel. Tickets are \$100 and are available at www.WestHartfordPride.org.

The West Hartford Pride Festival in June features a day of fun with street fair vendors, entertainment, films/documentaries, youth programming and more.

- *The Drowsy Chaperone* - Conard Performing Arts Department presents *The Drowsy Chaperone*. *The Drowsy Chaperone* is a musical comedy gem that pays tribute to the Jazz Age, featuring one show-stopping song and dance number after another. Performances are March 6 & 7, and March 13 & 14 at 7:00 PM. A 2:00 PM matinee will be held on March 8. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$15 for children and students. Visit www.ConardHighSchoolMusical.com